

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please delete claims 1-10 and 18-22 without prejudice.

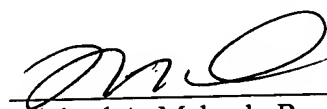
REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Preliminary Amendment are respectfully requested prior to or concurrent with calculation of the filing fees.

The present application is a division of parent application U.S. Serial No. 09/909,861, filed July 23, 2001. Accordingly, a cross-referencing statement has been added to the specification. Also, the specification for the division has been amended to place it in the same form as that of the 09/909,861 application. That is, regarding "S203", Applicants have amended the specification to include this label to the description pertaining to the step shown in Figure 4. Regarding "estimator 110", this editorial change was suggested by the Examiner handling the parent.

As to the claims, claims 1-10 and 18-22 have been cancelled. They have been prosecuted in the parent.

Respectfully submitted,  
SMITH GAMBRELL & RUSSELL, LLP

  
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Michael A. Makuch, Reg. No. 32,263  
1850 M. Street, N.W., Suite 800  
Washington, DC 20036  
Telephone: (202) 263-4300  
Facsimile: (202) 263-4329

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**Marked up version of the first paragraph starting at line 2 of page 10 as follows:**

--The temperature estimator 110 calculates the respective estimated temperatures T1' to T5' of the monitor wafers W1 to W5 based on the detection signals received from the temperature sensors S1<sub>in</sub> to S5<sub>in</sub>, and S1<sub>out</sub> to S5<sub>out</sub> (S203). In this estimation, the following equations (1) and (2), which are known in control engineering, may be used:

$$x(t+1) = A*x(t) + B*u(t).....(1)$$

$$y(t) = C*x(t) + u(t) ..... (2)$$

wherein, t: time,

x(t): n-dimensional state vector,

y(t): m-dimensional output vector,

u(t): r-dimensional input vector, and

A, B, C are constant matrixes of n×n, n×r and m×n, respectively.--

**Marked up version of the paragraph starting on line 26 of page 12:**

--The adjustment for the temperature estimator [110-1] 110 of the first heat treatment apparatus is carried out by determining the constant matrixes A, B, C and D in the aforementioned equations (3) and (4). The constant matrixes A, B, C and D are [depend] dependant on the heat-characteristics of the heat treatment apparatus.--